



St Helens College



ST HELENS COLLEGE

**Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 July 2018**

Key Management Personnel, Board of Governors and Professional advisers

Key management personnel

Key management personnel are defined as members of the College Leadership Team and were represented by the following in 2017/18:

Jette Burford, Principal and CEO; Accounting officer

Rob Molloy, CFO

Anne Pryer, Principal (St Helens)

Gill Banks, Principal (Knowsley)

Board of Governors

A full list of Governors is given on page 16 of these financial statements.

Mrs Christine Jones acted as Clerk to the Corporation until 31st March 2018.

Mrs Lorna Lloyd-Williams acted as Clerk to the Corporation from 1st April 2018.

Professional advisers

Financial statements auditors and reporting accountants:

KPMG LLP

1 St Peter's Square

Manchester

M2 3AE

Internal auditors:

ICCA Education Training and Skills

11th Floor, McLaren House,

46 Priory Queensway,

Birmingham

B4 7LR

Bankers:

Lloyds Bank

13/15 Hardshaw Street

St Helens

WA10 1QZ

Solicitors:

Eversheds LLP

Eversheds House

70 Great Bridgewater Street

Manchester

M1 5ES

CONTENTS

	Page number
Strategic Report	4
Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control	13
Governing Body's statement on the College's regularity, propriety and compliance with Funding body terms and conditions of funding	20
Statement of Responsibilities of the Members of the Corporation	21
Independent Auditor's Report to the Corporation of St Helens College	23
Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity	25
Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income	27
Consolidated and College Statement of Changes in Reserves	28
Balance Sheets as at 31 July	29
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows	30
Notes to the Accounts	31

Strategic Report

Overview

The College has been through an exciting and challenging year, working towards a merger with Knowsley Community College that was concluded on 12th December 2017, whilst facing financial challenges in the form of funding cuts, strong local competition in higher education, and government reforms in apprenticeship delivery and funding.

Despite these challenges the College has maintained delivery of a high quality student experienced and worked hard to manage its finances in a sustainable manner.

Legal status

The Corporation was established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 for the purpose of conducting St Helens College. The College is an exempt charity for the purposes of Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011.

The Corporation was incorporated as St Helens College of Arts and Technology. On 1 October 2001, the Secretary of State granted consent to the Corporation to change the College's name to St Helens College.

The College merged with Knowsley Community College on 12th December 2017. The merger sees the two organisations join together to strengthen the educational offer to the local communities and the wider Liverpool City Region. The legal status and name of St Helens College remains post-merger, with Knowsley Community College dissolving into St Helens College.

Mission

The College Mission Statement is "Transforming lives through excellence in education and training" and is underpinned by the Statement of Aims:

1. to make a leading contribution to the welfare and economic development of our local communities, the Liverpool City Region by developing the curriculum and skills needed by employers and individuals;
2. to provide good value for taxpayers' money ensuring high quality education and training while ensuring strong financial health;
3. to be an inclusive College Group where each individual is respected, valued and safeguarded as part of an enjoyable, supportive and caring learning and working environment;
4. to ensure high levels of professionalism, integrity, strong work ethics, teamwork and innovation;
5. to ensure successful education, training and personal, social, moral, cultural and spiritual development and welfare for students ensuring that they are well prepared for life and work in Britain today;
6. to build students' confidence and employability skills, including English and maths, ensuring progression to further study or sustainable employment;
7. to achieve consistently high customer satisfaction from students, parents, employers and other stakeholders;

8. to provide leadership for local education and training partnerships.

Public Benefit

St Helens College is an exempt charity under the Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is regulated by the Secretary of State for Education (previously the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills) as Principal Regulator for all FE Corporations in England. The members of the Governing Body, who are trustees of the charity, are disclosed on page 16.

In setting and reviewing the College's strategic objectives, the Governing Body has had due regard for the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and particularly upon its supplementary guidance on the advancement of education. The guidance sets out the requirement that all organisations wishing to be recognised as charities must demonstrate, explicitly, that their aims are for the public benefit. The College's Public Value Statement is below:

Public Value Statement (PVS)

The College seeks to add value to the social, economic and physical well-being of the communities that we serve by:

1. providing education and training in accordance with the College's mission, statement of aims and values which maximise the life and job prospects of the individuals and meet the needs of the employers and the communities in general;
2. raising aspirations of individuals and the communities by promoting prospects and celebrating success;
3. ensuring a broad curriculum offer with good progression routes from entry level;
4. promoting healthy life styles and good citizenship skills to all students and colleagues;
5. being responsive to the changing needs and circumstances;
6. actively listening to and engaging with the stakeholders of the College aiming to provide the best possible service;
7. being a respectful and responsible employer;
8. always acting with corporate integrity.

FINANCIAL POSITION

Financial results

The Group generated a surplus before other gains and losses in the year of £8.8m (2016/17 – deficit of £1.7m), with a total comprehensive income surplus of £4.2m (2016/17 – surplus of £6.2m).

The results include several items that have arisen from accounting reporting standards and merger entries, rather than underlying performance. These items include LGPS Pension figures of £1,020k (2016/17 - £864k) in the main deficit figure and £8,847k (2016/17 - £7,999k) in the total comprehensive income figure, as well as an acquisition entry of £13,460k.

The College merged with Knowsley Community College during the 2017/18 year, with a number of merger entries amounting to a net £11.6m being adjusted as part of this process. This included

£3.8m repayment of loans, £1.5m of staff restructuring costs, and £0.3m of legal and professional costs.

The Group has an accumulated reserve liability of £533k and cash and short term investment balances of £3.5m. The Group accumulates reserves and cash balances in order to create a contingency fund, and has sufficient cash resources for the foreseeable future.

Tangible fixed asset additions during the year amounted to £113k.

The Group has significant reliance on the education sector funding bodies for its principal funding source, largely from recurrent grants. In 2017/18 the FE funding bodies provided 81% of the Group's total income.

The College has one subsidiary company, Skills Northwest Limited, which is a dormant company.

Treasury policies and objectives

Treasury management is the management of the College's cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.

The College has a separate treasury management policy in place.

Short term borrowing for temporary revenue purposes is authorised by the Accounting Officer. All other borrowing requires the authorisation of the Corporation and comply with the requirements of the Financial Memorandum.

Cash flows and liquidity

Net cash flow from operating activities was an increase of £9.7million (2016/17 increase of £811k). The overall net cashflow of a £3.3million increase included repayment of loans, investment in the College's estate, and the management of other resources.

The size of the College's total borrowing and its approach to interest rates has been calculated to ensure a reasonable cushion between the total cost of servicing debt and operating cashflow. During the year this margin was comfortably exceeded.

CURRENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND PERFORMANCE

The College is a major provider of education and training at all levels from basic English and maths to full honours degrees. With nearly 12,000 students, 526 employees and nearly 1,000 employer links, the College plays a major role in the local community within St Helens, Knowsley and the surrounding area, the wider Liverpool City Region and the FE sector.

The College educates a wide variety of students preparing them for employment or further study. It comprises a range of students from the age of 14 through to adults, with students studying in a wide variety of FE and HE disciplines, allowing them to both meet and raise their own aspirations as well as fulfilling the needs of employers.

On the 12th December 2017 the College completed a merger with Knowsley Community College which sees the two organisations join together to create a £35m turnover College, with the size and strength to provide successful, quality education to the region.

Benefits of the merger include:

- securing financial strength and sustainability through economies of scale
- developing the ability to make bigger investments for the benefit of all stakeholders
- increasing options for expanding provision
- maintaining local presence and identity
- improving responsiveness to local economic needs and demand from employers, learners and the communities
- providing enhanced opportunities and stability for staff

The merger has been through significant internal and external consultation and has support from all major stakeholders including the local Councils, Liverpool City Region LEP, and the ESFA.

Payment performance

The Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, which came into force on 1 November 1998, requires Colleges, in the absence of agreement to the contrary, to make payments to suppliers within 30 days of either the provision of goods or services or the date on which the invoice was received. The target set by the Treasury for payment to suppliers within 30 days is 95 per cent. During the accounting period 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018, the College paid 94 per cent of its invoices within 30 days. The College incurred no interest charges in respect of late payment for this period.

Events after the end of the reporting period

Following the year end, a restructure of the senior team was undertaken, with the Principal (St Helens) and Principal (Knowsley) leaving the organisation, and a Deputy Principal being appointed.

RESOURCES:

The College has various resources that it can deploy in pursuit of its strategic objectives.

Tangible resources include the St Helens town centre site, a £60 million building, and seven other college sites, which have had more than £14m invested in them over the last few years.

Financial

The College has £0.6 million of net assets (but including £17 million pension liability and £39m of deferred capital grants) and long term debt of £10 million.

People

The College employs 526 people (expressed as full time equivalents), of whom 276 are teaching staff.

Reputation

The College has a good reputation locally and nationally. Maintaining a quality brand is essential for the College's success at attracting students and external relationships.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES:

The College has undertaken further work during the year to develop and embed the system of internal control, including financial, operational and risk management which is designed to protect the College's assets and reputation. This work included a review and redesign of the College's risk management policy, procedures and risk register to implement best practice.

Based on the strategic plan, the Risk Management Group undertakes a comprehensive review of the risks to which the College is exposed. They identify systems and procedures, including specific preventable actions which should mitigate any potential impact on the College. The internal controls are then implemented and the subsequent year's appraisal will review their effectiveness and progress against risk mitigation actions. In addition to the annual review, the Risk Management Group will also consider any risks which may arise as a result of a new area of work being undertaken by the College.

A risk register is maintained at the College level which is reviewed at least annually by the Audit Committee and more frequently where necessary. The risk register identifies the key risks, the likelihood of those risks occurring, their potential impact on the College and the actions being taken to reduce and mitigate the risks. Risks are prioritised using a consistent scoring system.

This is supported by a risk management training programme to raise awareness of risk throughout the College.

Outlined below is a description of the principal risk factors that may affect the College. Not all the factors are within the College's control. Other factors besides those listed below may also adversely affect the College.

1 Government funding

The College has considerable reliance on continued government funding through the further education sector funding bodies and through HEFCE. In 2017/18, 81% of the College's revenue was ultimately publicly funded and this level of requirement is expected to continue. There can be no assurance that government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms.

The College is aware of several issues which may impact on future funding:

- Apprenticeship funding changes
- Government funding cuts
- Exit from the EU

This risk is mitigated in a number of ways:

- Income is derived through a number of direct and indirect contractual arrangements, with the development of more full cost and commercial income that is less reliant in government funding.
- By ensuring the College is rigorous in delivering high quality education and training.

- Where possible, costs are established in a flexible way to allow for fluctuations in funding.
- Considerable focus and investment is placed on maintaining and managing key relationships with the various funding bodies
- Ensuring the College is focused on those priority sectors which will continue to benefit from public funding.
- Regular dialogue with funding bodies

2 Tuition fee policy

Ministers have confirmed that the fee assumption remains consistent. In line with the majority of other colleges, St Helens College will seek to increase tuition fees in accordance with the fee assumptions. The risk for the College is that demand falls off as fees increase. This will impact on the growth strategy of the College.

This risk is mitigated in a number of ways:

- By ensuring the College is rigorous in delivering high quality education and training, thus ensuring value for money for students
- Close monitoring of the demand for courses as prices change

3 Maintain adequate funding of pension liabilities

The financial statements report the share of the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit on the College's balance sheet in line with the requirements of FRS 102. The latest Pension Scheme valuation was released in November 2016, which shows a real actuarial Pension deficit of £4.9m, which is 90% funded. This reduces the risk in comparison to the FRS102 reported figures, and the College is mitigating the remaining risk by close monitoring of cash reserves. The impact of the valuation on the College's contributions has been relatively small and is manageable within current operations.

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIPS

In line with other colleges and with universities, St Helens College has many stakeholders. These include:

- Students;
- Education sector funding bodies;
- FE Commissioner;
- Staff;
- Local employers (with specific links);
- Local authorities;
- Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs);
- The local community;
- Other FE institutions;
- Trade unions;
- Professional bodies.

The College recognises the importance of these relationships and engages in regular communication with them through the College Internet site and by face to face meetings.

Disability statement

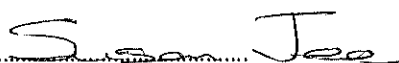
The College seeks to achieve the objectives set down in the Equality Act 2010:

- a) As part of its accommodation strategy the College updated its access audit. Experts in this field conducted a full access audit during 2008/09, and the results of this formed the basis of funding capital projects aimed at improving access.
- b) The College has appointed an Access Co-ordinator, who provides information, advice and arranges support where necessary for students with disabilities.
- c) There is a list of specialist equipment, such as radio aids, which the College can make available for use by students and a range of assistive technology is available in the learning centre.
- d) The admissions policy for all students is described in the College charter. Appeals against a decision not to offer a place are dealt with under the complaints policy.
- e) The College has made a significant investment in the appointment of specialist lecturers to support students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. There are a number of student support assistants who can provide a variety of support for learning. There is a continuing programme of staff development to ensure the provision of a high level of appropriate support for students who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities.
- f) Specialist programmes are described in College prospectuses, and achievements and destinations are recorded and published in the standard College format.
- g) Counselling and welfare services are described in the College Student Guide, which is issued to students together with the Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure leaflets at induction.

Disclosure of information to auditors

The members who held office at the date of approval of this report confirm that, so far as they are each aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the College's auditors are unaware; and each member has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the College's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by order of the members of the Corporation on 13th December 2018 and signed on its behalf by:

..........

Susan Jee

Chair

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

The following statement is provided to enable readers of the annual report and accounts of the College to obtain a better understanding of its governance and legal structure. This statement covers the period from 1st August 2017 to 31st July 2018 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

The College endeavours to conduct its business:

- i. in accordance with the seven principles identified by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership);
- ii. in full accordance with the guidance to colleges from the Association of Colleges in The Code of Good Governance for English Colleges ("the Code"); and
- iii. having due regard to the UK Corporate Governance Code 2014 insofar as it is applicable to the further education sector.

The College is committed to exhibiting best practice in all aspects of corporate governance and in particular the College has adopted and complied with the Code except that some governors may serve more than two years in exceptional circumstances. We have not adopted and therefore do not apply the UK Corporate Governance Code. However, we have reported on our Corporate Governance arrangements by drawing upon best practice available, including those aspects of the UK Corporate Governance Code we consider to be relevant to the further education sector and best practice.

In the opinion of the Governors, the College complies with all the provisions of the Code, and it has complied throughout the year ended 31 July 2018. The Governing Body recognises that, as a body entrusted with both public and private funds, it has a particular duty to observe the highest standards of corporate governance at all times. In carrying out its responsibilities, it takes full account of The Code of Good Governance for English Colleges issued by the Association of Colleges in March 2015, which it formally adopted on 19th May 2015 and was adopted by the merged college on the 17th May 2018.

The College is an exempt charity within the meaning of Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011. The Governors, who are also the Trustees for the purposes of the Charities Act 2011, confirm that they have had due regard for the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and that the required statements appear elsewhere in these financial statements.

The Corporation

The members who served on the Corporation during the year and up to the date of signature of this report were as listed in the table below.

	Date of Appointment	Term of office	Date of resignation	Status of appointment	Committees served	Attendance*
Elaine Brocklehurst	2014 - 2022	8 years	n/a	Joint Vice-Chair External Governor	Finance, Resources & Curriculum; Quality & outcomes (Chair); Strategic Curriculum Planning, Performance and remuneration; Search and Governance	9 out of 10 meetings
Susan Jee	2017 – 2021	4 years	n/a	Chair (from March 2017) External Governor	Finance, Resources & Curriculum (Chair); Performance and remuneration; Search and Governance	9 out of 10 meetings
Mark Flinn	12 December 2017	4 years	Retired March 2018	External Governor	None	3 out of 3 meetings
John Middlehurst	2014 – 2018	4 years	Ceased to be a governor upon merger	External Governor	Audit; Standards and Curriculum	3 out of 3 meetings
Keith Sanderson	2017 – 2021	4 years	n/a	External Governor	Audit and subsequently ; Finance, Resources & Commercial	6 out of 10 meetings

	Date of Appointment	Term of office	Date of resignation	Status of appointment	Committees served	Attendance*
Phil Round	2015 – 2019	4 years	Ceased to be a governor upon merger	External Governor	Resources; Remuneration; Standards and Curriculum	3 out of 3 meetings
Diane Charnock	2014 – 2018	4 years	Ceased to be a governor upon merger	External Governor	Audit	1 out of 3 meetings
Nick Shore	2017 – 2021	4 years	n/a	External Governor	Performance & remuneration, finance, resources & Commercial	6 out of 10 meetings
Julie Heap	2014 – 2020	6 years	n/a	Staff Governor	Quality & Outcomes	7 out of 8 meetings
Jette Burford	N/a	Ex-officio	n/a	Principal	Finance, Resources & Commercial; Quality & Outcomes; Search and Governance; Strategic Curriculum planning	10 out of 10 meetings
Teni Ajasa-Oseyemi	2017 – 2018	1 year	End of term July 2018	Student Governor	n/a	1 out of 4 meetings
Jim Pinsent	2015-2019	4 years	n/a	External Governor	Finance, Resources & Commercial; Search & Governance; Performance & Remuneration (Chair)	7 out of 7 meetings

	Date of Appointment	Term of office	Date of resignation	Status of appointment	Committees served	Attendance*
Julia Tinsley	2015-2019	4 years	27/09/18	External Governor	Quality & Outcomes; Strategic Curriculum planning	6 out of 6 meetings
Pam Jervis	5th term of office until 2020	4 years	29/09/18	External Governor and Joint Vice- Chair	Quality & Outcomes; Strategic Curriculum Planning (Chair)	6 out of 6 meetings
Aidan Sergent	2016-2020	4 years	n/a	External Governor	Finance, Resources & Commercial;	4 out of 6 meetings
Benjamin Bennett- Stanley	2016-2020	4 years	n/a	Staff Governor	Strategic Curriculum Planning	2 out of 5 meetings
Philip Han	2018-2022	4 years	n/a	External Governor	Audit	6 out of 6 meetings
Yvonne Rennison	2018-2022	4 years	n/a	External Governor	Quality & Outcomes; Strategic Curriculum planning	3 out of 6 meetings
Alison Cannon	2018-2022	4 years	n/a	External Governor	Audit	6 out of 6 meetings
Nicole Hawksford	January 2018- July 2018	n/a	n/a	Student Governor	none	1 out of 3 meetings

It is the Corporation's responsibility to bring independent judgement to bear on issues of strategy, performance, resources and standards of conduct.

The Corporation is provided with regular and timely information on the overall financial performance of the College together with other information such as performance against funding targets, proposed capital expenditure, quality matters and personnel-related matters such as health and safety and environmental issues. The Corporation meets each term.

The Corporation conducts its business through a number of committees. Each committee has terms of reference, which have been approved by the Corporation. These committees are Finance

Resources and Commercial , Quality & Outcomes, Strategic Curriculum Planning, Performance & Remuneration, Search & Governance and Audit. Full minutes of all meetings, except those deemed to be confidential by the Corporation, are available on the College's website at www.sthelens.ac.uk or from the Clerk to the Corporation at:

St Helens College
Water Street
St Helens
WA10 1PP

The Clerk to the Corporation maintains a register of financial and personal interests of the governors. The register is available for inspection at the above address.

All governors are able to take independent professional advice in furtherance of their duties at the College's expense and have access to the Clerk to the Corporation, who is responsible to the Board for ensuring that all applicable procedures and regulations are complied with. The appointment, evaluation and removal of the Clerk are matters for the Corporation as a whole.

Formal agendas, papers and reports are supplied to governors in a timely manner, prior to Board meetings. Briefings are provided on an ad hoc basis.

The Corporation has a strong and independent non-executive element and no individual or group dominates its decision-making process. The Corporation considers that each of its non-executive members is independent of management and free from any business or other relationship which could materially interfere with the exercise of their independent judgement.

There is a clear division of responsibility in that the roles of the Chairman and Accounting Officer are separate.

Appointments to the Corporation

Any new appointments to the Corporation are a matter for the consideration of the Corporation as a whole. The Corporation has a search committee, consisting of three members of the Corporation, which is responsible for the selection and nomination of any new member for the Corporation's consideration. The Corporation is responsible for ensuring that appropriate training is provided as required.

Members of the Corporation are appointed for a term of office not exceeding four years.

Corporation performance

The Corporation has produced a self assessment report for 2017/18 and an action plan for 2018/19 covering the areas of oversight and leadership that it is responsible for. The Corporation will monitor progress against these items during 2018/19.

Remuneration Committee

Throughout the year ending 31 July 2018 the College's Performance and Remuneration Committee comprised four members of the Corporation. The Committee's responsibilities are to make recommendations to the Board on the remuneration and benefits of the Accounting Officer and other key management personnel.

Details of remuneration for the year ended 31 July 2018 are set out in note 8 to the financial statements.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee comprises three members of the Corporation and a co-opted member (excluding the Accounting Officer and Chair). The Committee operates in accordance with written terms of reference approved by the Corporation.

The Audit Committee meets on a termly basis and provides a forum for reporting by the College's internal reporting accountants and financial statements auditors, who have access to the Committee for independent discussion, without the presence of College management. The Committee also receives and considers reports from the main FE funding bodies as they affect the College's business.

The College's internal auditors review the systems of internal control, risk management controls and governance processes in accordance with an agreed plan of input and report their findings to management and the Audit Committee.

Management is responsible for the implementation of agreed audit recommendations and internal audit undertakes periodic follow-up reviews to ensure such recommendations have been implemented.

The Audit Committee also advises the Corporation on the appointment of internal reporting accountants and financial statements auditors and their remuneration for audit and non-audit work as well as reporting annually to the Corporation.

Internal control

Scope of responsibility

The Corporation is ultimately responsible for the College's system of internal control and for reviewing its effectiveness. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The Corporation has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Principal, as Accounting Officer, for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the College's policies, aims and objectives, whilst safeguarding the public funds and assets for which she is personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to her in the Financial Memorandum between St Helens College and the funding bodies. She is also responsible for reporting to the Corporation any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of College policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in St Helens College for the year ended 31 July 2018 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

Capacity to handle risk

The Corporation has reviewed the key risks to which the College is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Corporation is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the College's significant risks that has been in place for the period ending 31 July 2018 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the Corporation.

The risk and control framework

The system of internal control is based on a framework of regular management information, administrative procedures including the segregation of duties, and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:

- comprehensive budgeting systems with an annual budget, which is reviewed and agreed by the governing body
- regular reviews by the governing body of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against forecasts
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined capital investment control guidelines
- the adoption of formal project management disciplines, where appropriate.

St Helens College has an internal audit service, which operates in accordance with the requirements of the EFA and SFA's Post-16 audit code of practice 2017 to 2018. The work of the internal audit

service is informed by an analysis of the risks to which the College is exposed, and annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. The analysis of risks and the internal audit plans are endorsed by the Corporation on the recommendation of the audit committee. At minimum, annually, the Head of Internal Audit (HIA) provides the governing body with a report on internal audit activity in the College. The report includes the HIA's independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the College's system of risk management, controls and governance processes.

Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the Principal has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. Her review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by:

- the work of the internal auditors
- the work of the executive managers within the College who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework
- comments made by the College's financial statements auditors, the reporting accountant for regularity assurance, the appointed funding auditors (for colleges subject to funding audit) in their management letters and other reports.

The Accounting Officer has been advised on the implications of the result of her review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control by the Audit Committee, which oversees the work of the internal auditor and other sources of assurance, and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.


The senior management team receives reports setting out key performance and risk indicators and considers possible control issues brought to their attention by early warning mechanisms, which are embedded within the departments and reinforced by risk awareness training. The senior management team and the Audit Committee also receive regular reports from internal audit and other sources of assurance, which include recommendations for improvement. The Audit Committee's role in this area is confined to a high-level review of the arrangements for internal control. The Corporation's agenda includes a regular item for consideration of risk and control and receives reports thereon from the senior management team and the Audit Committee. The emphasis is on obtaining the relevant degree of assurance and not merely reporting by exception.

Based on the advice of the Audit Committee and the Accounting Officer, the Corporation is of the opinion that the College has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control, and has fulfilled its statutory responsibility for *"the effective and efficient use of resources, the solvency of the institution and the body and the safeguarding of their assets"*.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Corporation considers that the College has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. See accounting policy section, page 33, for further detail.

Approved by order of the members of the Corporation on 13th December 2018 and signed on its behalf by:



Susan Jee
Chair



Jette Burford
Principal and Accounting Officer

Governing Body's statement on the College's regularity, propriety and compliance with Funding body terms and conditions of funding

The Corporation has considered its responsibility to notify the Education & Skills Funding Agency of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with Education & Skills Funding Agency terms and conditions of funding, under the financial memorandum in place between the College and the Education & Skills Funding Agency. As part of our consideration we have had due regard to the requirements of the financial memorandum.

We confirm, on behalf of the Corporation, that after due enquiry, and to the best of our knowledge, we are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the College, or material non-compliance with the Education & Skills Funding Agency's terms and conditions of funding under the College's financial memorandum.

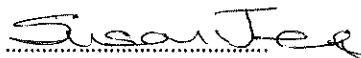
We confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the Education & Skills Funding Agency.



Jette Burford

Accounting Officer

Date: 13/12/18



Susan Jee

Chair of Governors

Date: 13/12/18

Statement of Responsibilities of the Members of the Corporation

The members of the Corporation are required to present audited financial statements for each financial year.

Within the terms and conditions of the College's Financial Memorandum with the ESFA, the Corporation, through its Accounting Officer, is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with the *2015 Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for Further and Higher Education* and with the *College Accounts Direction 2017 to 2018* issued by the ESFA, and which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group and the parent College and the result for that year.

In preparing the group and parent College financial statements, the Corporation is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- assess the group and parent College's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and
- use the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the group or the parent College or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Corporation is also required to prepare a Strategic Report which describes what it is trying to do and how it is going about it, including information about the legal and administrative status of the College.

The Corporation is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the parent College, and which enable it to ensure that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the relevant legislation of incorporation and other relevant accounting standards. It is responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and for taking steps that are reasonably open to it in order to safeguard the assets of the group and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The maintenance and integrity of the College website is the responsibility of the Corporation of the College; the work carried out by the auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and, accordingly, the auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the Corporation are responsible for ensuring that expenditure and income are applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and that the financial transactions conform to the authorities that govern them. In addition they are responsible for ensuring that funds from the ESFA are used only in accordance with the Financial Memorandum with the ESFA and any other conditions that may be prescribed from time to time. Members of the Corporation must ensure that there are appropriate financial and management controls in place in order to safeguard public and other funds and to ensure they are used properly. In addition, members of the Corporation are responsible for securing economical, efficient and effective management of the group and parent

College's resources and expenditure, so that the benefits that should be derived from the application of public funds from the ESFA are not put at risk.

Approved by order of the members of the Corporation on 13th December 2018 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Jee". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Susan Jee

Chair

Independent auditor's report to the Corporation of St Helens College

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of St Helens College ("the College") for the year ended 31 July 2018 which comprise the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income, Consolidated and College Statement of Changes in Reserves, Balance Sheets and Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and related notes, including the Statement of accounting policies in note 1.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and the College's affairs as at 31 July 2018, and of the Group's and the College's income and expenditure, gains and losses and changes in reserves, and of the Group's cash flows, for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK accounting standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*, and with the 2015 *Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for Further and Higher Education*.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities are described below. We have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities under, and are independent of the group in accordance with, UK ethical requirements including the FRC Ethical Standard. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is a sufficient and appropriate basis for our opinion.

Going concern

We are required to report to you if we have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting is inappropriate or there is an undisclosed material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt over the use of that basis for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. We have nothing to report in these respects.

Other information

The Corporation is responsible for the other information, which comprises the Members' Report and the Corporation's statement of corporate governance and internal control. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether, based on our financial statements audit work, the information therein is materially misstated or inconsistent with the financial statements or our audit knowledge. Based solely on that work, we have not identified material misstatements in the other information.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Under the Post-16 Audit Code of Practice 2017 to 2018 (March 2018) issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent College; or
- the parent College's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or

- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Corporation's responsibilities

As explained more fully in their statement set out on page 22, the Corporation is responsible for: the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view; such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; assessing the group and parent College's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it either intends to liquidate the group or the parent College or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue our opinion in an auditor's report. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

A fuller description of our responsibilities is provided on the FRC's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This report is made solely to the Corporation, in accordance with Article 21 of the College's Articles of Government. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Corporation those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the College and the Corporation for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Amanda Latham

20th December 2018

Amanda Latham

for and on behalf of KPMG LLP, Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

1 St Peter's Square

Manchester

M2 3AE

Reporting Accountant's Report on Regularity to the Corporation of St Helens College and the Secretary of State for Education acting through the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 7 October 2015 and further to the requirements of the funding agreement with Education and Skills Funding Agency we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received by St Helens College during the period 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018 have not been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

The framework that has been applied is set out in the Post-16 Audit Code of Practice issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. In line with this framework, our work has specifically not considered income received from the main funding grants generated through the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) returns, for which the Education and Skills Funding Agency has other assurance arrangements in place.

This report is made solely to the corporation of St Helens College and the Education and Skills Funding Agency in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the corporation of St Helens College and Education and Skills Funding Agency those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the corporation of St Helens College and the Education and Skills Funding Agency for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of St Helens College and the reporting accountant

The corporation of St Helens College is responsible, under the requirements of the Further & Higher Education Act 1992, subsequent legislation and related regulations and guidance, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Post-16 Audit Code of Practice. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Post-16 Audit Code of Practice issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in that framework.

The objective of a limited assurance engagement is to perform such procedures as to obtain information and explanations in order to provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express a negative conclusion on regularity.

A limited assurance engagement is more limited in scope than a reasonable assurance engagement and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in a reasonable assurance engagement. Accordingly, we do not express a positive opinion.

Our engagement includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the regularity of the college's income and expenditure.

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion included:

- Documenting the framework of authorities which govern the activities of the College;
- Undertaking a risk assessment based on our understanding of the general control environment and any weaknesses in internal controls identified by our audit of the financial statements;
- Reviewing the self-assessment questionnaire which supports the representations included in the Chair of Governors and Accounting Officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance with the framework of authorities;
- Testing transactions with related parties;
- Confirming through enquiry and sample testing that the College has complied with its procurement policies and that these policies comply with delegated authorities; and
- Reviewing any evidence of impropriety resulting from our work and determining whether it was significant enough to be referred to in our regularity report.

This list is not exhaustive and we performed additional procedures designed to provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express a limited assurance conclusion on regularity consistent with the requirements of the Post-16 Audit Code of Practice.

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Amanda Latham 20th December 2018

Amanda Latham
For and on behalf of KPMG LLP, Reporting Accountant
1 St Peter's Square
Manchester
M2 3AE

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income

	Notes	Year ended 31 July 2018		Year ended 31 July 2017	
		Group £'000	College £'000	Group £'000	College £'000
INCOME					
Funding body grants	2	20,831	20,831	17,809	17,809
Tuition fees and education contracts	3	5,478	5,478	5,346	5,346
Other grants and contracts	4	14,751	14,751	147	147
Other income	5	2,061	2,061	1,316	1,316
Investment income	6	-	-	-	-
Donations and Endowments	7	-	-	-	-
Total income		43,121	43,121	24,618	24,618
EXPENDITURE					
Staff costs	8	19,770	19,770	16,258	16,258
Fundamental restructure costs	8	1,520	1,520	296	296
Other operating expenses	9	9,363	9,363	6,228	6,228
Depreciation	12	2,579	2,579	2,463	2,463
Interest and other finance costs	10	1,090	1,090	1,109	1,109
Total expenditure		34,322	34,322	26,354	26,354
Surplus/(Deficit) before other gains and losses		8,799	8,799	(1,736)	(1,736)
Profit / (Loss) on disposal of assets	12	-	-	(1)	(1)
Share of operating surplus/(deficit) in associate		21	-	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) before tax		8,820	8,899	(1,737)	(1,737)
Taxation	11	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		8,820	8,899	(1,737)	(1,737)
Net gain/(loss) arising from transfer of assets and liabilities from acquisition	28	(13,460)	(13,460)	-	-
Actuarial gain/(loss) in respect of pensions schemes	25	8,847	8,847	7,999	7,999
Total Comprehensive Income for the year		4,207	4,186	6,262	6,262

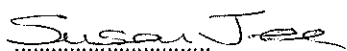
Consolidated and College Statement of Changes in Reserves

	Income and expenditure account	Restricted reserves	Total
Group			
Balance at 1st August 2016	(9,936)	-	(9,936)
Surplus/(deficit) from the income and expenditure account	(1,737)		(1,737)
Other comprehensive income	7,999		7,999
Transfers between revaluation and income and expenditure reserves			
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>6,262</u>		<u>6,262</u>
Balance at 31st July 2017	<u>(3,674)</u>		<u>(3,674)</u>
Surplus/(deficit) from the income and expenditure account	8,820		8,820
Other comprehensive income	(4,613)		(4,613)
Transfers between revaluation and income and expenditure reserves			
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>4,207</u>		<u>4,207</u>
Balance at 31st July 2018	<u>533</u>		<u>533</u>
College			
Balance at 1st August 2016	(9,963)	-	(9,963)
Surplus/(deficit) from the income and expenditure account	(1,737)		(1,737)
Other comprehensive income	7,999		7,999
Transfers between revaluation and income and expenditure reserves			
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>6,262</u>		<u>6,262</u>
Balance at 31st July 2017	<u>(3,701)</u>		<u>(3,701)</u>
Surplus/(deficit) from the income and expenditure account	8,799		8,799
Other comprehensive income	(4,613)		(4,613)
Transfers between revaluation and income and expenditure reserves			
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>4,186</u>		<u>4,186</u>
Balance at 31st July 2018	<u>486</u>		<u>486</u>

Balance sheets as at 31st July

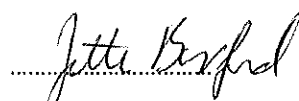
	Notes	Group	College	Group	College
		2018	2018	2017	2017
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Non current assets					
Tangible Fixed assets	12	67,544	67,544	65,535	65,535
Investments	13	48	41	27	41
		67,592	67,585	65,562	65,576
Current assets					
Stocks		40	40	36	36
Trade and other receivables	14	995	995	1,140	1,140
Cash and cash equivalents	20	3,480	3,480	162	162
		4,515	4,515	1,338	1,338
Less: Creditors – amounts falling due within one year	16	(6,869)	(6,909)	(5,209)	(5,209)
Net current assets / (liabilities)		(2,354)	(2,394)	(3,871)	(3,871)
Total assets less current liabilities		65,238	65,191	61,691	61,704
Creditors – amounts falling due after more than one year	17	(47,279)	(47,279)	(48,618)	(48,659)
Provisions					
Defined benefit obligations	19	(17,426)	(17,426)	(16,747)	(16,747)
Other provisions	19	-	-	-	-
Total net assets / (liabilities)		533	486	(3,674)	(3,701)
Restricted reserves					
Principal's Fund Reserve				-	-
Unrestricted Reserves					
Income and expenditure account		533	486	(3,674)	(3,701)
Revaluation reserve					
Total reserves		533	486	(3,674)	(3,701)

The financial statements on pages 27 to 59 were approved and authorised for issue by the Corporation on 13th December 2018 and were signed on its behalf by:



Susan Jee

Chair



Jette Burford

Principal / Accounting Officer

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

	Notes	2018 £'000	2017 £'000
Cash flow from operating activities			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		8,820	(1,737)
Adjustment for non-cash items			
Depreciation	12	2,579	1,142
(Increase)/decrease in stocks		(4)	(7)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	14	35	531
Increase/(decrease) in creditors due within one year	16	1,516	(23)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors due after one year	17	(130)	(486)
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	19	-	-
Pensions costs less contributions payable	25	1,020	864
Share of operating (surplus)/deficit in associate		(21)	-
Transfer due to merger		(4,607)	-
Taxation		-	-
Adjustment for investing or financing activities			
Investment income	6	-	-
Interest payable	10	520	526
Taxation paid		-	-
Loss on sale of fixed assets	12	-	1
Net cash flow from operating activities		9,728	811
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		-	-
Disposal of non-current asset investments	13	-	-
Capital grants received		68	519
Investment income	6	-	-
Transfer due to merger		4,340	-
Payments made to acquire fixed assets		(173)	(525)
		4,235	(6)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Interest paid	10	(520)	(526)
Interest element of finance lease rental payments		-	-
New unsecured loans		-	-
Repayments of amounts borrowed	17	(10,125)	(674)
Capital element of finance lease rental payments		-	-
		(10,645)	(1,200)
Increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		3,318	(395)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	20	162	557
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	20	3,480	162

Notes to the Accounts

1. Statement of accounting policies and estimation techniques

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2015* (the 2015 FE HE SORP), the *College Accounts Direction for 2017 to 2018* and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 – “*The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland*” (FRS 102). The College is a public benefit entity and has therefore applied the relevant public benefit requirements of FRS 102.

The preparation of financial statements in compliance with FRS 102 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgement in applying the College's accounting policies.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention as modified by the use of previous valuations as deemed cost at transition for certain non-current assets.

Following the merger of St Helens College and Knowsley Community College during the year, the accounts have been prepared on an acquisition accounting basis, in line with guidance in the Education SORP.

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the College and its subsidiary, Skills Northwest Limited, controlled by the Group. Control is achieved where the Group has the power to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities. The results of subsidiaries acquired or disposed of during the period are included in the consolidated income and expenditure account from the date of acquisition or up to the date of disposal. Intra-group sales and profits are eliminated fully on consolidation. All financial statements are made up to 31 July. The financial results of the College's associate company, Waterside Training Ltd, are consolidated on a share of the profit or loss for the College financial year. As the Waterside financial year is to 31st March, management accounts are used to calculate the share for the College year end.

1. Statement of accounting policies and estimation techniques continued

Going concern

The activities of the College, together with the factors likely to affect its future development and performance are set out in the Members Report. The financial position of the College, its cashflow, liquidity and borrowings are presented in the Financial Statements and accompanying Notes.

The Group generated a surplus before other gains and losses in the year of £8.8m, with a total comprehensive income surplus of £4.2m, and held cash balances at year end of £3.5m.

The College currently has £10m of loans outstanding with bankers on terms negotiated at a number of points in the last few years. The College's forecasts and financial projections indicate that it will be able to operate within this existing facility and covenants for the foreseeable future.

The principal risks to going concern are potential breach of loan covenants and adequate cash balances to service the College's operations. The College manages and mitigates these risks through close monitoring of financial performance, and a strong relationship and communication with the bank around financial strength, cash reserves and future plans, which includes access to a credit facility with the bank, negotiated if and when required.

The merger with Knowsley Community College enables a stronger financial position through synergies, economies of scale and growth. The merger has also been supported with investment from central government, which strengthens the working capital position of the College and has enabled structural and process changes to take place, making the College a more efficient and financially resilient organisation.

Accordingly, the College has a reasonable expectation that it has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, and for this reason will continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of its Financial Statements.

Recognition of income

Government revenue grants include funding body recurrent grants and other grants and are accounted for under the accrual model as permitted by FRS 102. Funding body recurrent grants are measured in line with best estimates for the period of what is receivable and depend on the particular income stream involved. Any under or over achievement for the Adult Skills Budget is adjusted for and reflected in the level of recurrent grant recognised in the income and expenditure account. The final grant income is normally determined with the conclusion of the year end reconciliation process with the funding body following the year end, and the results of any funding audits. 16-18 learner-responsive funding is not normally subject to reconciliation and is therefore not subject to contract adjustments.

The recurrent grant from HEFCE represents the funding allocations attributable to the current financial year and is credited direct to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

1. Statement of accounting policies and estimation techniques continued

Grants (including research grants) from non-government sources are recognised in income when the College is entitled to the income and performance related conditions have been met. Income received in advance of performance related conditions being met is recognised as deferred income within creditors on the balance sheet and released to income as the conditions are met.

Government capital grants are capitalised, held as deferred income and recognised in income over the expected useful life of the asset, under the accrual method as permitted by FRS 102. Other capital grants are recognised in income when the College is entitled to the funds subject to any performance related conditions being met.

Income from tuition fees is stated gross of any expenditure which is not a discount and is recognised in the period for which it is received.

All income from short-term deposits is credited to the income and expenditure account in the period in which it is earned on a receivable basis.

Accounting for post-employment benefits

Post-employment benefits to employees of the College are principally provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). These are defined benefit plans, which are externally funded and contracted out of the State Second Pension.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme. Contributions to the TPS are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the College in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by qualified actuaries on the basis of valuations using a prospective benefit method. The TPS is a multi-employer scheme and the College is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution plan and the contributions recognised as an expense in the income statement in the periods during which services are rendered by employees.

The LGPS is a funded scheme. The assets of the LGPS are measured using closing fair values. LGPS liabilities are measured using the projected unit credit method and discounted at the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and

1. Statement of accounting policies and estimation techniques continued

interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

The FRS 102 valuation of the LGPS pension scheme gives rise to a deficit recognised in the Balance sheet of £17.4m. The Actual deficit of the LGPS scheme (based on its actual combination of assets and liabilities) is a deficit of £4.9m with the scheme being 90% funded.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

Short term Employment benefits

Short term employment benefits such as salaries and compensated absences (holiday pay) are recognised as an expense in the year in which the employees render service to the College. Any unused benefits are accrued and measured as the additional amount the College expects to pay as a result of the unused entitlement.

Non-current Assets - Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or deemed cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Certain items of fixed assets that had been revalued to fair value on or prior to the date of transition to the 2015 FE HE SORP, are measured on the basis of deemed cost, being the revalued amount at the date of that revaluation.

Land and buildings

Freehold buildings are depreciated on a straight line basis over their expected useful lives as follows:

- Buildings – 50 years
- Major Refurbishments – 20 years
- Minor Refurbishments – 10 years

Freehold land is not depreciated.

Freehold buildings are depreciated over their expected useful economic life to the College of 50 years. The College has a policy of depreciating major adaptations to buildings over the period of their useful economic life of 20 years, and minor adaptations over 10 years.

1. Statement of accounting policies and estimation techniques continued

Where land and buildings are acquired with the aid of specific grants, they are capitalised and depreciated as above. The related grants are credited to a deferred income account within creditors, and are released to the income and expenditure account over the expected useful economic life of the related asset on a systematic basis consistent with the depreciation policy. The deferred income is allocated between creditors due within one year and those due after more than one year.

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of any fixed asset may not be recoverable.

On adoption of FRS 102, the College followed the transitional provision to retain the book value of land and buildings, which were revalued in the past, as deemed cost but not to adopt a policy of revaluations of these properties in the future.

Assets under construction

Assets under construction are accounted for at cost, based on the value of architects' certificates and other direct costs, incurred to 31 July. They are not depreciated until they are brought into use.

Subsequent expenditure on existing fixed assets

Where significant expenditure is incurred on tangible fixed assets after initial purchase it is charged to income in the period it is incurred, unless it increases the future benefits to the College, in which case it is capitalised and depreciated on the relevant basis.

Equipment

Equipment costing less than £1,000 per individual item is recognised as expenditure in the period of acquisition. All other equipment is capitalised at cost.

Capitalised equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis over its remaining useful economic life as follows:

- technical equipment 4 years
- motor vehicles 4 years
- computer equipment 4 years
- furniture, fixtures and fittings 4 years

Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs are recognised as expenditure in the period in which they are incurred.

1. Statement of accounting policies and estimation techniques continued

Leased assets

Costs in respect of operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term. Any lease premiums or incentives relating to leases signed after 1st August 2014 are spread over the minimum lease term. The College has taken advantage of the transitional exemptions in FRS 102 and has retained the policy of spreading lease premiums and incentives to the date of the first market rent review for leases signed before 1st August 2014.

Investments

Investments in subsidiaries

Investments in subsidiaries are accounted for at cost less impairment in the individual financial statements.

Investments in associates

Investments in associates are recognised initially in the consolidated Balance Sheet at the transaction price and subsequently adjusted to reflect the group's share of total comprehensive income and equity of the associate, less any impairment.

Any excess of the cost of acquisition over the group's share of the net fair value of the identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities of the associate recognised at the date of acquisition, although treated as goodwill, is presented as part of the investment in the associate. Amortisation is charged so as to allocate the cost of goodwill over its estimated useful life, using the straight-line method. Losses in excess of the carrying amount of an investment in an associate are recorded as a provision only when the College has incurred legal or constructive obligations or has made payments on behalf of the associate.

Investments in associates are accounted for at cost less impairment in the individual financial statements.

Other investments

Listed investments held as non-current assets and current asset investments, which may include listed investments, are stated at fair value, with movements recognised in Comprehensive Income. Investments comprising unquoted equity instruments are measured at fair value, estimated using a valuation technique.

Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of their cost (using the first in first out method) and net realisable value, being selling price less costs to complete and sell. Where necessary, provision is made for obsolete, slow-moving and defective items.

1. Statement of accounting policies and estimation techniques continued

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash includes cash in hand, deposits repayable on demand and overdrafts. Deposits are repayable on demand if they are in practice available within 24 hours without penalty.

Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value. An investment qualifies as a cash equivalent when it has maturity of 3 months or less from the date of acquisition.

Financial liabilities and equity

Financial liabilities and equity are classified according to the substance of the financial instrument's contractual obligations, rather than the financial instrument's legal form.

All loans, investments and short term deposits held by the Group are classified as basic financial instruments in accordance with FRS 102. These instruments are initially recorded at the transaction price less any transaction costs (historical cost). FRS 102 requires that basic financial instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost, however the Group has calculated that the difference between the historical cost and amortised cost basis is not material and so these financial instruments are stated on the balance sheet at historical cost. Loans and investments that are payable or receivable within one year are not discounted.

Taxation

The College is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the College is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by sections 478-488 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

The College is partially exempt in respect of Value Added Tax, so that it can only recover around 2% of the VAT charged on its inputs. Irrecoverable VAT on inputs is included in the costs of such inputs and added to the cost of tangible fixed assets as appropriate, where the inputs themselves are tangible fixed assets by nature.

The College's subsidiary companies are subject to corporation tax and VAT in the same way as any commercial organisation.

1. Statement of accounting policies and estimation techniques continued

Provisions and contingent liabilities

Provisions are recognised when the College has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the amount expected to be required to settle the obligation is recognised at present value using a pre-tax discount rate. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost in the statement of comprehensive income in the period it arises.

A contingent liability arises from a past event that gives the College a possible obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the College. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet but are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

Agency arrangements

The College acts as an agent in the collection and payment of discretionary support funds. Related payments received from the funding bodies and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the income and expenditure of the College where the College is exposed to minimal risk or enjoys minimal economic benefit related to the transaction.

Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In preparing these financial statements, management have made the following judgements:

- Determine whether leases entered into by the College either as a lessor or a lessee are operating or finance leases. These decisions depend on an assessment of whether the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred from the lessor to the lessee on a lease by lease basis.
- Determine whether there are indicators of impairment of the group's tangible assets, including goodwill. Factors taken into consideration in reaching such a decision include the economic viability and expected future financial performance of the asset and where it is a component of a larger cash-generating unit, the viability and expected future performance of that unit.

1. Statement of accounting policies and estimation techniques continued

Other key sources of estimation uncertainty

- *Tangible fixed assets*

Tangible fixed assets, other than investment properties, are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values, where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In re-assessing asset lives, factors such as technological innovation and maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as future market conditions, the remaining life of the asset and projected disposal values.

- *Local Government Pension Scheme*

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2013 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 July 2016. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

2 Funding body grants	Year ended 31 July		Year ended 31 July	
	2018	2018	2017	2017
	Group	College	Group	College
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Recurrent grants				
Education & Skills Funding Agency – Adults	4,574	4,574	3,453	3,453
Education & Skills Funding Agency – 16-18	12,261	12,261	10,045	10,045
Education & Skills Funding Agency - Apprenticeships	2,078	2,078	2,029	2,029
Higher Education Funding Council	729	729	877	877
Specific grants				
Free School Meals	141	141	84	84
Releases of government capital grants	1,048	1,048	1,321	1,321
Total	20,831	20,831	17,809	17,809

3 Tuition fees and education contracts	Year ended 31 July		Year ended 31 July	
	2018	2018	2017	2017
	Group	College	Group	College
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adult education fees	1,070	1,070	1,077	1,077
Apprenticeship fees and contracts	292	292	372	372
Fees for FE loan supported courses	1,098	1,098	952	952
Fees for HE loan supported courses	3,018	3,018	2,943	2,943
International students fees	-	-	2	2
Total tuition fees	5,478	5,478	5,346	5,346
Education contracts	-	-	-	-
Total	5,478	5,478	5,346	5,346

4 Other grants and contracts	Year ended 31 July		Year ended 31 July	
	2018	2018	2017	2017
	Group	College	Group	College
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Other grants and contracts	14,751	14,751	147	147
Total	14,751	14,751	147	147

5 Other income	Year ended 31 July		Year ended 31 July	
	2018	2018	2017	2017
	Group	College	Group	College
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Catering and residences	355	355	467	467
Other income generating activities	841	841	385	385
Other grant income	-	-	-	-
Non-government capital grants	309	309	-	-
Miscellaneous income	556	556	464	464
Total	2,061	2,061	1,316	1,316

6 Investment income	Year ended 31 July		Year ended 31 July	
	2018	2018	2017	2017
	Group	College	Group	College
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Other interest receivable	-	-	-	-
Net return on pension scheme (note 25)	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-

7 Donations – College only	2018	2017
	£'000	£'000
Donations	-	-
Total	-	-

8 Staff costs – Group and College

The average number of persons (including key management personnel) employed by the College during the year, described as full-time equivalents, was:

	2018	2017
	No.	No.
Teaching staff	276	230
Non-teaching staff	250	194
	<u>526</u>	<u>424</u>
Staff costs for the above persons		
	2018	2017
	£'000	£'000
Wages and salaries	14,965	12,530
Social security costs	1,367	1,120
Other pension costs	3,284	2,544
	<u>19,616</u>	<u>16,194</u>
Payroll sub total		
Contracted out staffing services	154	64
	<u>19,770</u>	<u>16,258</u>
Fundamental restructuring costs – Contractual	1,520	296
- Non contractual	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Staff costs	<u>21,290</u>	<u>16,554</u>

Key management personnel

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the College and are represented by the senior post holders of the College which comprises the CEO, CFO, Principal (St Helens), and Principal (Knowsley). Staff costs include compensation paid to key management personnel for loss of office.

Emoluments of Key management personnel, Accounting Officer and other higher paid staff

	2018	2017
	No.	No.
The number of key management personnel including the Accounting Officer was:	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>

8. Staff costs – Group and College continued

The number of key management personnel and other staff who received annual emoluments, excluding pension contributions and national insurance contributions but including benefits in

	Key management personnel		Other staff	
	2018 No.	2017 No.	2018 No.	2017 No.
£60,001 to £70,000 p.a.	-	-	2	2
£70,001 to £80,000 p.a.	-	-	1	-
£80,001 to £90,000 p.a.	1	1	-	-
£90,001 to £100,000 p.a.	2	1	-	-
£100,001 to £110,000 p.a.	-	-	-	-
£110,001 to £120,000 p.a.	-	-	-	-
£120,001 to £130,000 p.a.	-	-	-	-
£130,001 to £140,000 p.a.	1	1	-	-
	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>

Key management personnel emoluments are made up as follows:

	2018 £'000	2017 £'000
Salaries	339	254
Employer's National Insurance	43	32
Benefits in kind	3	4
	<u>385</u>	<u>290</u>
Pension contributions	54	40
Total emoluments	<u>439</u>	<u>331</u>

There were no amounts due to key management personnel that were waived in the year, nor any salary sacrifice arrangements in place.

The above emoluments include amounts payable to the Accounting Officer (who is also the highest paid officer) of:

	2018 £'000	2017 £'000
Salaries	131	131
Benefits in kind	2	2
	<u>133</u>	<u>133</u>
Pension contributions	22	21

Compensation for loss of office paid to former key management personnel

No payments were made to a member of former key management personnel for loss of office.

8. Staff costs – Group and College continued

The members of the Corporation other than the Accounting Officer and the staff members did not receive any payment from the institution other than the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses incurred in the course of their duties.

9 Other operating expenses

	2018	2018	2017	2017
	Group	College	Group	College
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Teaching costs	2,068	2,068	2,005	2,005
Non-teaching costs	4,994	4,994	2,708	2,708
Premises costs	2,301	2,301	1,517	1,517
Total	9,363	9,363	6,230	6,230

Other operating expenses include:	2018	2017
	£'000	£'000
Auditors' remuneration:		
Financial statements audit	35	25
Internal audit	15	13
Other services provided by the financial statements auditor	3	106
Other services provided by the internal auditors	-	-
Hire of assets under operating leases	140	52
Payments to subcontractors	1,277	502

10 Interest and other finance costs – Group and College

	2018	2017
	£'000	£'000
On bank loans, overdrafts and other loans:	<u>520</u>	<u>526</u>
Pension finance costs (note 25)	<u>570</u>	<u>583</u>
Total	<u>1,090</u>	<u>1,109</u>

11 Taxation – Group only

	2018	2017
	£'000	£'000
United Kingdom corporation tax at 20 per cent	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

12	Tangible fixed assets (Group & College)	Land and buildings		Equipment	Total
		Freehold	Long leasehold		
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or valuation					
	At 1 August 2017	87,961	1,261	2,467	91,689
	Additions	-	-	113	113
	Transfer due to acquisition	4,102	-	372	4,474
	Disposals	-	-	-	-
	At 31 July 2018	92,063	1,261	2,952	96,276
Depreciation					
	At 1 August 2017	24,023	512	1,619	26,154
	Charge for the year	2,141	50	387	2,578
	Transfer due to acquisition	-	-	-	-
	Elimination in respect of disposals	-	-	-	-
	At 31 July 2018	26,164	562	2,006	28,732
	Net book value at 31 July 2018	65,899	699	946	67,544
	Net book value at 31 July 2017	63,938	749	848	65,535

13	Non-current investments	Group	College	Group	College
		2018	2018	2017	2017
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Investments in subsidiary companies	-	41	-	41
	Investments in associate companies	48	-	27	-
	Other non-current asset investments	-	-	-	-
	Total	48	41	27	41

The College owns 100 per cent of the issued ordinary £1 shares of Skills Northwest Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales, and 44 per cent of the issued ordinary £1 shares of Waterside Training Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales. Skills Northwest Limited is a dormant company. The principal activity of Waterside Training Limited is the delivery of training for individuals and companies in the engineering industry.

14 Debtors

	Group	College	Group	College
	2018	2018	2017	2017
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Amounts falling due within one year:				
Trade receivables	383	383	196	196
Amounts owed by group undertakings:				
Subsidiary undertakings	-	-	-	-
Associate undertakings	78	78	5	5
Prepayments and accrued income	528	528	537	537
Other debtors	6	6	402	402
Total	995	995	1,140	1,140

15 Current investments

	Group	College	Group	College
	2018	2018	2017	2017
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Short term deposits	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group	College	Group	College
	2018	2018	2017	2017
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Bank loans and overdrafts	608	608	694	694
Trade payables	847	847	627	627
Amounts owed to group undertakings:				
Subsidiary undertakings	-	-	-	-
Associate undertakings	8	8	37	37
Other taxation and social security	860	860	384	384
Accruals and deferred income	2,372	2,372	1,150	1,150
Deferred income - government capital grants	1,492	1,492	1,402	1,402
Amounts owed to the SFA/EFA	529	529	93	93
Other creditors	153	193	822	822
Total	6,869	6,909	5,209	5,209

17 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	Group	College	Group	College
	2018	2018	2017	2017
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Bank loans	9,497	9,497	10,105	10,105
Deferred income - government capital grants	37,782	37,782	38,383	38,383
Other creditors	-	-	130	171
Total	<u>47,279</u>	<u>47,279</u>	<u>48,618</u>	<u>48,659</u>

18 Maturity of debt**(a) Bank loans and overdrafts**

Bank loans and overdrafts are repayable as follows:

	Group	College	Group	College
	2018	2018	2017	2017
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
In one year or less	608	608	694	694
Between one and two years	1,072	1,072	1,132	1,132
Between two and five years	1,798	1,798	1,719	1,719
In five years or more	6,627	6,627	7,253	7,253
Total	<u>10,105</u>	<u>10,105</u>	<u>10,798</u>	<u>10,798</u>

19 Provisions

	Group and College		Total
	Defined benefit obligations	Other	
	£'000	£'000	£'000
At 1 August 2017	16,747	-	16,747
Expenditure in the period			
Additions in period	679	-	679
At 31 July 2018	<u>17,426</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,426</u>

Defined benefit obligations relate to the liabilities under the College's membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme. Further details are given in Note 25.

Other provisions related to a potential clawback from the SFA from a historic contract.

20 Cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 August 2017	Cash flows	Other changes	At 31 July 2018
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash and cash equivalents	162	(1,022)	4,340	3,480
Overdrafts	-	-	-	-
Total	162	(1,022)	4,340	3,480

21 Capital and other commitments

	Group and College	
	2018	2017
	£'000	£'000
Commitments contracted for at 31 July	-	-

22 Lease obligations

At 31 July the College had minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Group and College	
	2018	2017
	£'000	£'000
Future minimum lease payments due		
Land and buildings		
Not later than one year	659	64
Later than one year and not later than five years	2,948	318
Later than five years	12,790	1,344
	<u>16,397</u>	<u>1,726</u>
Other		
Not later than one year	64	64
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	64
Later than five years	-	-
	<u>64</u>	<u>128</u>

23 Contingent liabilities

The College's Kirkby site is currently being marketed for sale. Once a sale has been completed, the college may be liable to pay a covenant to the Local Authority. No provision has been made for this provision in these accounts as it is not considered practical to estimate a potential liability at this stage.

24 Events after the reporting period

Following the year end, a restructure of the senior team was undertaken, with the Principal (St Helens) and Principal (Knowsley) leaving the organisation, and a Deputy Principal being appointed.

25 Defined benefit obligations

The College's employees belong to two principal post-employment benefit plans: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Merseyside Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Wirral MBC. Both are multi-employer defined-benefit plans.

Total pension cost for the year	2018	2017
	£000	£000
Teachers' Pension Scheme: contributions paid	1,366	1,192
Local Government Pension Scheme:		
Contributions paid	1,564	1,344
Administration charge	28	22
Charge to the Statement of Comprehensive Income	1,592	1,366
Enhanced pension charge to Statement of Comprehensive Income	-	-
Total Pension Cost for Year within staff costs	2,958	2,558

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest formal actuarial valuation of the TPS was 31 March 2012 and of the LGPS 31 March 2016.

Contributions amounting to £366,000 (2017: £264,000) were payable to the schemes at 31st July and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010, and, from 1 April 2014, by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. These regulations apply to teachers in schools and other educational establishments, including academies, in England and Wales that are maintained by local authorities. In addition, teachers in many independent and voluntary-aided schools and teachers and lecturers in some establishments of further and higher education may be eligible for membership. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers and lecturers and, from 1 January 2007, automatic too for teachers and lecturers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

25. Defined benefit obligations continued

The Teachers' Pension Budgeting and Valuation Account

Although members may be employed by various bodies, their retirement and other pension benefits are set out in regulations made under the Superannuation Act 1972 and are paid by public funds provided by Parliament. The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions, along with those made by employers, are credited to the Exchequer under arrangements governed by the above Act.

The Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010 require an annual account, the Teachers' Pension Budgeting and Valuation Account, to be kept of receipts and expenditure (including the cost of pension increases). From 1 April 2001, the Account has been credited with a real rate of return, which is equivalent to assuming that the balance in the Account is invested in notional investments that produce that real rate of return.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The latest actuarial review of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2012 and in accordance with The Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education (the Department) on 9 June 2014. The key results of the valuation are:

- New employer contribution rates were set at 16.48% of pensionable pay (including administration fees of 0.08%);
- total scheme liabilities for service to the effective date of £191.5 billion, and notional assets of £176.6 billion, giving a notional past service deficit of £14.9 billion;
- an employer cost cap of 10.9% of pensionable pay.

The new employer contribution rate for the TPS was implemented in September 2015.

A full copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation can be found on the Teachers' Pension Scheme website at the following location:

<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2014/06/publication-of-the-valuation-report.aspx>

25. Defined benefit obligations continued

Scheme Changes

Following the Hutton report in March 2011 and the subsequent consultations with trade unions and other representative bodies on reform of the TPS, the Department published a Proposed Final Agreement, setting out the design for a reformed TPS to be implemented from 1 April 2015.

The key provisions of the reformed scheme include: a pension based on career average earnings; an accrual rate of 1/57th; and a Normal Pension Age equal to State Pension Age, but with options to enable members to retire earlier or later than their Normal Pension Age. Importantly, pension benefits built up before 1 April 2015 will be fully protected.

In addition, the Proposed Final Agreement includes a Government commitment that those within 10 years of Normal Pension Age on 1 April 2012 will see no change to the age at which they can retire, and no decrease in the amount of pension they receive when they retire. There will also be further transitional protection, tapered over a three and a half year period, for people who would fall up to three and a half years outside of the 10 year protection.

Regulations giving effect to a reformed Teachers' Pension Scheme came into force on 1 April 2014 and the reformed scheme commenced on 1 April 2015.

The pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,366,000 (2017: £1,192,000).

FRS 102 (28)

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102 (28.11), the TPS is a multi-employer pension plan. The College is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan.

Accordingly, the College has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined-contribution plan. The College has set out above the information available on the plan and the implications for the College in terms of the anticipated contribution rates.

25. Defined benefit obligations continued

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit plan, with the assets held in separate funds administered by Wirral MBC Local Authority. The total contributions made for the year ended 31 July 2018 were £1,841,000, of which employer's contributions totalled £1,489,000 and employees' contributions totalled £352,000. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 15.5% for employers and range from 5.5% to 12.5% for employees, depending on salary.

On 26 October, the High Court handed down a judgment involving the Lloyds Banking Group's defined benefit pension schemes. The judgment concluded the schemes should be amended to equalise pension benefits for men and women in relation to guaranteed minimum pension benefits, "GMP". The Government will need to consider this outcome in conjunction with the Government's recent consultation on GMP indexation in public sector schemes before concluding on any changes required to LGPS schemes.

Principal Actuarial Assumptions

The following information is based upon a full actuarial valuation of the fund at 31 March 2016 updated to 31 July 2018 by a qualified independent actuary.

	At 31 July 2018	At 31 July 2017
Rate of increase in salaries	3.6%	3.7%
Future pensions increases	2.2%	2.2%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	2.9%	2.6%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.1%	2.2%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	-	-

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

	At 31 July 2018 Years	At 31 July 2017 Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	22.0	21.9
Females	24.8	24.7
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	25.0	24.9
Females	27.8	27.7

25. Defined benefit obligations continued

The College's share of the assets in the plan at the balance sheet date and the expected rates of return were:

	Fair Value at 31 July 2018 £'000	Fair Value at 31 July 2017 £'000
Equity instruments	34,671	28,695
Government bonds	5,444	1,862
Other bonds	18,927	6,626
Property	6,030	4,381
Cash	4,941	2,629
Other	13,735	10,569
Total fair value of plan assets	83,748	54,762
Weighted average expected long term rate of return	6.72%	9.4%
Actual return on plan assets	4,312	5,142

25. Defined benefit obligations continued

The amount included in the balance sheet in respect of the defined benefit pension plan is as follows:

	2018	2017
	£'000	£'000
Fair value of plan assets	83,748	54,762
Present value of plan liabilities	(101,174)	(71,509)
Net pensions (liability)/asset (Note 19)	(17,426)	(16,747)

Amounts recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in respect of the plan are as

	2018	2017
	£'000	£'000
Amounts included in staff costs		
Current service cost less employer contributions	(286)	(259)
Administration expenses	(28)	(22)
Past service cost	(4)	-
Effect of curtailments	(132)	-
Total	(450)	(281)
Amounts included in finance costs		
Net interest cost (note 10)	(570)	(583)
	(570)	(583)

Amount recognised in Other Comprehensive Income

Return on pension plan assets		
Experience losses arising on defined benefit obligations		
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of plan	8,847	7,999
Amount recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	8,847	7,999

25. Defined benefit obligations continued

Movement in net defined benefit (liability)/asset during year

	2018	2017
	£'000	£'000
Net defined benefit (liability)/asset in scheme at 1 August	(16,747)	(23,882)
Movement in year:		
Current service cost	(1,775)	(1,324)
Employer contributions	1,489	1,065
Administration expenses	(28)	(22)
Effect of curtailments	(132)	-
Past service cost	(4)	-
Net interest on the defined (liability)/asset	(570)	(583)
Business combinations	(8,506)	-
Actuarial gain or loss	8,847	7,999
Net defined benefit (liability)/asset at 31 July	<u>(17,426)</u>	<u>(16,747)</u>

Asset and Liability Reconciliation

	2018	2017
	£'000	£'000
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations		
Defined benefit obligations at start of period	71,509	72,566
Current service cost	1,775	1,324
Interest cost	2,437	1,799
Contributions by Scheme participants	352	279
Experience gains and losses on defined benefit obligations	-	(5,071)
Changes in financial assumptions	(6,402)	2,067
Estimated benefits paid	(1,579)	(1,455)
Business combinations	32,946	-
Past Service cost	4	-
Curtailments and settlements	132	-
Defined benefit obligations at end of period	<u>101,174</u>	<u>71,509</u>

Changes in fair value of plan assets

Fair value of plan assets at start of period	54,762	48,684
Interest on plan assets	1,867	1,216
Return on plan assets	2,445	4,995
Employer contributions	1,489	1,065
Contributions by Scheme participants	352	279
Administration expenses	(28)	(22)
Business combinations	24,440	-
Estimated benefits paid	(1,579)	(1,455)
Fair value of plan assets at end of period	<u>83,748</u>	<u>54,762</u>

26 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the College's operations and the composition of the board of governors being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the board of governors may have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the College's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

The total expenses paid to or on behalf of the Governors during the year was £nil (2016: £nil. This represents travel and subsistence expenses and other out of pocket expenses incurred in attending Governor meetings and charity events in their official capacity.

No Governor has received any remuneration or waived payments from the College or its subsidiaries during the year (2016: None).

Waterside Training Limited – an associate of St Helens College

Purchase transactions in the year amounted to £162,000 (2017 – £130,000). The balance outstanding at the year end was £78,000 (2017 – £37,000)

Sales transactions in the year amounted to £244,000 (2017 – £197,000). The balance outstanding at the year end was £8,000 (2017 – £5,000)

27 Amounts disbursed as agent

	2018	2017
	£'000	£'000
Funding body grants – bursary support	983	593
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	983	593
Disbursed to students	(757)	(566)
Administration costs	(44)	(27)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance unspent as at 31 July, included in creditors	<u>182</u>	<u>-</u>

Funding body grants are available solely for students. In the majority of instances, the College only acts as a paying agent. In these circumstances, the grants and related disbursements are therefore excluded from the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

28 Acquisition of Knowsley Community College

On 11th December 2017 the College acquired the net assets of Knowsley Community College. The assets and liabilities acquired were as follows:

	As stated in Knowsley accounts	Fair value adjustment	As per St Helens accounts
	£000	£000	£000
Fixed assets	18,621	(14,147)	4,474
Stock	11		11
Debtors	1,157		1,157
Cash	4,340		4,340
Creditors	(21,693)	6,757	(14,936)
Defined benefit obligations	(8,506)		(8,506)
Net gain/(loss)	(6,070)	(7,390)	(13,460)

Fair value adjustments relate to the value of land and buildings, and the associated deferred capital grants.

Following the acquisition, the Knowsley Community College activities were subsumed into the St Helens College activities and a restructuring of the organisation took place. The activities of the former Knowsley Community College are not being run as a separate entity and therefore it is not possible to identify the separate amounts of revenue and profit or loss for the acquired activity since the acquisition date.

